

VZCZCXRO6950  
PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH  
DE RUEHKO #0852 0880636  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 280636Z MAR 08  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2962  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY  
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY  
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 6933  
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 9316  
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 5396  
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 7529  
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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - UNREST IN TIBET

¶1. LEAD STORIES: All Friday morning papers gave top play to a set of proposals made on Thursday by Prime Minister Fukuda concerning road-related taxes.

¶2. "U.S. Anxious about Relations with China over Unrest in Tibet" The business-oriented Nikkei's Washington correspondent wrote (3/28): "The Bush administration is anxious about how to maintain its relations with China following the recent unrest in Tibet. Although the American people's interest in the strife in Tibet has been increasing, U.S. government officials have only expressed concern over the issue and urged China to hold dialogue with the Dalai Lama despite the fact that the U.S. places importance on human rights problems as one of its key diplomatic agenda items. The U.S. needs China's cooperation in dealing with international affairs and its economic ties with China is deepening when concern is growing about a possible recession in the U.S. Such elements appear to lie behind Washington officials' cautious statements on Tibet."

SCHIEFFER